

**LEGISLATIVE SERVICES AGENCY
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FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

LS 6149

BILL NUMBER: SB 51

NOTE PREPARED: Nov 23, 2012

BILL AMENDED:

SUBJECT: Straight-Ticket Voting.

FIRST AUTHOR: Sen. Delph

FIRST SPONSOR:

BILL STATUS: As Introduced

FUNDS AFFECTED: ☒ **GENERAL**
DEDICATED
FEDERAL

IMPACT: State & Local

Summary of Legislation: The bill removes a voter's option to vote for all candidates of a political party or an independent ticket at one time (straight-ticket voting) in a general or municipal election, except for candidates for presidential electors. The bill repeals superseded statutes relating to straight-ticket voting.

Effective Date: January 1, 2014.

Explanation of State Expenditures: The Election Commission would have to approve of any new software needed for the direct recording electronic (DRE) voting systems to accomplish the requirement of the bill. It is likely that the Election Commission would be able to examine and approve new software during a regular meeting of the Commission. The Commission met seven times during CY 2011 and had four scheduled meeting dates for CY 2012. There are currently no meetings scheduled for the Commission.

Explanation of State Revenues:

Explanation of Local Expenditures: The bill would require changes to paper ballot, ballot card, and DRE voting systems. With respect to ballot cards (used for optical scan voting systems), the removal of instructions for voting a straight ticket and the straight-ticket indication ovals by the devices of the major parties would require a ballot reconfiguration. Their removal could reduce printing costs of the ballots in the long run. Ballot cards generally cost approximately \$0.32 per card.

DRE voting systems must currently have either a push button (on older DREs) or an icon on a touchscreen system for voting a straight ticket. It is unknown whether the removal of straight-party voting ability could be

accomplished via reprogramming existing machines or if new software would need to be purchased. New software purchases would require additional expenditures of an indeterminable amount.

Explanation of Local Revenues:

State Agencies Affected: Indiana Election Commission.

Local Agencies Affected: Counties; Marion County Election Board.

Information Sources:

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